PTO-1390 (Rev. 12-2004) Approved for use through 3/31/2007. OMB 0651-0021

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) **CONCERNING A SUBMISSION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 206,871

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE PCT/EP2003/008821 08 August 2003 (8.08.2003)

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 09 August 2002 (9.08.2002)

TITLE OF INVENTION STAPLE FOR THE SUTURE OF THE STERNUM APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US PURICELLI, Cesare, et al. Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information: This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371. This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a submission under 35 U.S.C. 371. This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below. The US has been elected (Article 31). A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). X has been communicated by the International Bureau. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). $|\mathbf{X}|$ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). is attached hereto. has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau). have been communicated by the International Bureau. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. have not been made and will not be made. An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included: An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. A preliminary amendment. An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76. A substitute specification. A power of attorney and/or change of address letter. A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 37 CFR 1.821- 1.825. A second copy of the published International Application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4). 20. Other items or information:

his collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.414 and 1.491-1.492. The information USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 C including gathering information, preparing, and submitting the completed form to the USPTO. of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, DO NOT SEND FE Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

"EXPRESS MAIL" Label No.: ER 842 051 212 US Date of Deposit: February 9, 2005 this correspondence is being Deposited with the United States. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated above and addressed to: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. U.S. APPLICATION NO. (1 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER PCT/EP2003/008821 206,871 Applicant use Office use only The following fees are submitted: \$ X a) Basic national fee......\$300.00 300.00 \$ 200.00 b) Examination fee.....\$200.00 500.00 \$ S 1,000.00 **TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =** Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing or computer program listing filed in an electronic medium). The fee is \$250 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof. RATE Number of each additional 50 or fraction **Total Sheets** Extra sheets thereof (round up to a whole number) x \$250.00 - 100 = 0.00 \$ Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 30 months from the earliest \$ 0.00 claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)). NUMBER EXTRA RATE \$ NUMBER FILED **CLAIMS** \$50.00 \$ 0.00- 20 = Total claims 14 0 \$200.00 \$ 0.00 0 Independent claims 3 - 3 = \$360.00 \$ 0.00 MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$ 1,000.00 Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced 500.00 by 1/2. SUBTOTAL = \$ 500.00 Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than 30 months from the earliest \$ 0.00claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = 500.00 Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied 40.00by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = 540.00 Amount to be refunded: Amount to be charged \mathbf{X} 540.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. A check in the amount of \$ ___ _____ to cover the above fees. in the amount of \$ ____ Please charge my Deposit Account No. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-0035 A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. Fees are to be charged to a credit card. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038. NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the International Application to pending status. SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Jay S. Cinamon ABELMAN, FRAYNE & SCHWAB New York, NY 10017-56121 to PTO did not receive the following 150 East 42nd Street

FORM PTO-1390 (REV. 12-2004)

United States of America

Heted item(s)

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REGISTRATION NUMBER